



**Wisconsin Conservation Congress
 Turkey & Upland Game Advisory Committee
 Meeting Minutes**

WCC Meeting Minutes
 Form 8300-026 (R 11/17) Page 1 of 4

ORDER OF BUSINESS	08/18/2018	9:30 am	Marathon Co. Library, 300 1st St. Wausau, Wis.
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I. ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS

A. CALL TO ORDER

Meeting called to order by	Clarence Koch at 9:30 am
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B. ROLL CALL

ATTENDEES	Daniel Tyrolt, Michael Wade, Dave Larson, Jeremy Sarauer, Thomas Krueger, Michael Kautz, David Zielke, Jason Leis, Robert Nicksic, Roger Greenwood, Clarence Koch, Otto Bowe, Arlyn Splitt, Bernard Newman, Peter Mueller, Bradley Hasheider, Robert Benson, Kenneth Risley, Jeff Winn, Thomas Daluga, Jr. Larry Wehrheim, Joe Weiss. DNR Liaisons Mark Witecha, Sean Neverman, Ron Weber
EXCUSED	Marcell Wieloch, Roxanne Broullire, John Edelblute
UNEXCUSED	Dan Hayden, Robert Buscher
GUESTS	Loren Voss, Evan Voss, Roy Ihlenfeld, Derek Mueller

C. AGENDA APPROVAL/REPAIR

DISCUSSION	Discussion was made to combine 4 resolutions into one and 2 other into one.
ACTION	Motion Made by Ken Risley & 2nd by Kave Larson. (This was later Recinded and each was voted seperatly) Clarence Koch also wanted to make a show of hands on an item in members matters on bringing tags back.

D. REVIEW COMMITTEE MISSION STATEMENT

DISCUSSION	Clarence Koch read the mission statement, No discussion.
ACTION	no action

E. PUBLIC COMMENTS

DISCUSSION	Lauren Voss explained his resolution 206218 to Move Turkey season back to where it was previous to the change of approx. 1 week later. Last season is now too late, hot, and other activities like fishing and family vacations are in full swing. Also some State Parks are closed to Turkey Hunting a week earlier because of the change in the dates. Also commented that he is against omitting time periods. Roy Ihlenfeld explained his resolution 310418 of having no time periods for turkey hunting in the Spring. You can choose when to hunt instead of having to hunt the week you have a tag and the weather may be bad and you may not be able to get off of work. 3.00 for applying for a tag should be removed because the DNR probably has more cost in administration than it brings in.
ACTION	no action

II. INFORMATION & ACTION ITEMS

A. DNR Turkey and Grouse updates

Mark Witecha

DISCUSSION	Sharptail Grouse surveys showed nearly stable to a 4% decline this last year but has a longterm decline of 66%. 25 permits will be given out in unit 8 only. Fall Turkey harvest of 3,971 was down 20%. Doing hunter surveys a lot of fall turkey hunters are archery hunting for deer and have the turkey tag if the opportunity presents itself. Only 52% of the fall turkey tag holders actually hunted turkeys. 77% of turkey hunters surveyed were happy with they way the turkey hunt is set up. Spring Turkey hunt had 212,781 permits issued. The kill was down 4,000 from last year. Most of the decline was with the youth hunt and the first period because of the late winter and snow storms around the State. Compliance rate for registering is at approx. 86%. Which is consistant with other hunting. 74% of survey said high quality hunting for turkeys. There is an average of high 70s to low 80s% satisfaction with the frame work of the Wisconsin turkey season structure. This Spring was better hatching weather for the turkeys so they believe the hatch is better. A good success rate of 2nd nesting also. The States turkey population is stable at around 38,000 to 43,000 turkeys annually. Wis. turkey season is consistent with surrounding states which opens between April 16th-21rst and most close between May 29th-31rst. Like the later start date because most nesting starts between April 18th-24th. Pheasant population survey showed 8% drop in crowing counts , but is still above the 5 year average. Ruffed Grouse drumming was down 34%. It was noted that there are pockets of lots of grouse and others with few. There are 400 kits for checking pheasants and grouse for West Nile virus available for public tesiting.
ACTION	no action

PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE

B. DNR Law enforcement

Sean Neverman

DISCUSSION	Citations this last year were less for Turkey. The most cited was failure to register your bird, 2nd was not valid stamp or license, 3rd was a tie between hunting wrong zone and baiting. Injuries in 2017 were 0. 2018 there was one in Adams Co. A gentleman shot himself in the foot while trying to attach a turkey fan to his gun. The Department is changing its law enforcement back to the way it was with the wardens doing the traditional work and hiring Park Rangers (not sure what the official name will be) back to care for the parks. 17 new wardens are being trained for duty out of 30 openings.	
ACTION	no action	
PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE	

C. Forestry

Ron Weber

DISCUSSION	Division of Forestry is now in charge of prescribed burns with help from the wildlife biologists which is a switch from previous. Instead of the foresters sharing the duties of MFL each area of county has a MFL Specialist now to take care of MFL properties. Invasives continue to be a big issue. Forestry Division's Initiative to reach out to 20,000 unengaged forest landowners over the next 5 years to reach a goal of 1 million acres into sustainable forestry Management	
ACTION	no action	
PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE	

D. Resolution 650218 Change opening day of turkey season to the Wed. before April 15

Mark Minta, not present

DISCUSSION	Generally later season is better for weather and makes sure hens are starting nesting.	
ACTION	Motion to reject by Arlyn Splitt, 2nd by Roger Greenwood. Motion Carried	
PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE	

E. Resolution 380218 Move turkey hunting start date to 2nd Wed. in April

Tim Mueller, not present

DISCUSSION	Arlyn Splitt said it will open a few years now at that time and reexplained the better weather and makes sure hens are starting nesting.	
ACTION	Motion to reject by Roger Greenwood & 2nd by Thomas Daluga Jr. Motion carried	
PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE	

F. Resolution 220218 Move turkey hunting start date to Wed. nearest April 13th.

Kevin Lange, not present

DISCUSSION	several council members expressed support because the 6th season now is so late, hot, and public is fishing and vacationing by then. Move back to original dates. Other discussion was to leave it as now because it gives better dates for the learn to hunt and youth hunts, better weather, and it should be left at dates as is. Was discussed in length previous years about a 7th season and all the factors and was thought that the dates now are the best all around.	
ACTION	Motion to reject by Robert Nicksic & 2nd by Jerry Sarauer, Motion Carried by hand vote of 12 to reject and 6 to not.	
PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE	

G. Resolution 200618 Start youth turkey season first Saturday in April

Loren Voss

DISCUSSION	Loren explained under public comments earlier. Discussion was that this was 2 resolutions which is not acceptable as we only vote on one at a time and should be rejected. Same comments and the previous 3. This would be a new season structure for all seasons and some years would be too early.	
ACTION	Motion to reject by Thomas Daluga Jr. and 2nd by Dave Larson. Motion Carried.	
PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE		DEADLINE

H. Resolution 590218 One season Spring turkey hunt

Warren Schmidt, not present

DISCUSSION	Would put all hunters in woods at once and would be about a 7 day hunt for the most part. Landowner preference would be mute and that is a law that 30% of tags get landowner preference. 212,000 hunters in the woods would be to dangerous. Safety is a concern and one death is not worth it. Would make interference conflicts rise substantially, would make getting permission harder because and uncle was used as an example may not get his turkey and the landowner would likely say his uncle may come out yet and is saving for him. Whereas if his season is over or he has no tag for that season a person would be able to get permission easier.	
ACTION	Motion to reject by Roger Greenwood and 2nd by Otto Bowe. Motion carried	
PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE		DEADLINE

I. Resolution 310418 Elimination of applying for Spring and Fall turkey tags and eliminate time periods

Roy Ihlenfeld

DISCUSSION	Roy discussed his resolution in public comments earlier above. Some of which is DNR probably does not come out ahead in dollars by time it takes to manage the 3.00 application fees. Committee discussed that DNR does make money on selling the extra tags by selling them for 10.00 each which comes close to a million dollars. Seasons spread hunter density out for less interference and safety.	
ACTION	Motion to reject by Robert Nicksic and 2nd by Larry Wehrheim. Motion carried	
PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE		DEADLINE

J. Resolution 540318 Landowner preference definition modification

Jeff Adey, not present

DISCUSSION	Wondered why our committee got this as it should have been in a different committee maybe. A big family could have a lot of landowner tags. What if land is in a trust with many owners and family owners? Would be expensive to check and enforce.	
ACTION	Motion to reject by Roger Greenwood and 2nd by Jeff Winn. Motion carried	
PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE		DEADLINE

K. Resolution 721118 Landowner preference for group Spring turkey application

Dominic Pernsteiner, not present

DISCUSSION	Definition of immediate family is a defined group of relations, used in rules or laws to determine which members of a person's family are affected by those rules. It normally includes a person's parents, spouses, siblings, children, or an individual related by blood whose close association is and equivalent of a family relationship. It can contain others connected by birth, adoption, marriage, civil partnership, or cohabitation, such as grandparents, great grandparents, grandchildren, great-grandchildren, aunts, uncles, siblings-in-law, half-siblings, cousins, adopted children and step-parents/step children, and cohabiting partners. Would be a pretty big group possibly. First degree relative is a spouse, parent, siblings or children. Would move priority up for the group possibly. Now it is taken as the lowest preference point holder for the group.	
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ACTION	Motion to reject by Arlyn Splitt, and 2nd by Dave Zielke. Motion carried	
PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE		DEADLINE

L. Resolution 630318 Landowner season wide turkey permit

Phillip Marty, not present

DISCUSSION	Landowner 1 tag any and all seasons. No discussion	
ACTION	Motion to reject by Jeff Winn, 2nd by Dave Zielke. Motion carried	
PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE		DEADLINE

M. Resolution 720318 Require pheasant, quail, and grouse hunters to wear blaze orange or pink

Jim Winkler, not present

DISCUSSION	Warden said would be in favor to be more consistent with other seasons. This is just to get the ball rolling as when it would become law there would be a percentage possibly put on for the amount of blaze color. If it was more than a hat or shoulder a lot of hunters would have to buy all new set of clothes. The best is the hat to be orange. Any orange would be of great help when you are swinging on a bird	
ACTION	Motion to pass by Tom Daluga Jr. and 2nd by Robert Nicksic. Motion carried	
PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE		DEADLINE

III. MEMBERS MATTERS

DISCUSSION	<p>Some members discussed upcoming meetings and raffles. Dave Zielke has not seem many turkey poults. DNR Mark Witecha explained that a lot of broods they have seen were late 2nd nesters and would be smaller. Michael Dautz asked about closing of the grouse season early. There was discussion by several that this rule should have been run by our committee for our input also. Even if it was of concern to make a decision soon we could have done an email trail, meeting, etc. Committee was circumvented. Science based does not support closing season early will save grouse from west Nile or other factors.</p> <p>Michael Kautz asked that they reevaluate the districts or at least where the meetings are held as in district 4 some have to drive over 100 miles to get to the meeting because it is not centrally located.</p> <p>Dan Tyrolt asked why this Turkey and Upland Game Committee does not have representation member on the DNR upland game committee. WCC has a person in there but it is not from our committee. We should have representation from our committee for meetings that involve grouse, pheasants, and other upland game.</p> <p>For the new code of procedures that we notify the chair of meetings that we are or are not going to be at a meeting could be done easier by a group email to answer back. If no email they would have to call. But for the chair to take calls while driving is not good and voice mails sometimes are hard to understand who called.</p> <p>Ruffed Grouse surveys should be smaller area rather than just say northern unit is up or down in population count. The Northern region is a huge area and the NE could be very different from the NW. Do smaller areas or maybe even down to county size.</p> <p>Clarence Koch asked that we should get back to using tags on the game we harvest. Registration stations would be good also but tougher. By tagging the bird or animal makes it cut and dried for the warden and also is a reminder for the hunter to register the game. If you do not tag it and you clean and pack it in freezer it is easy to forget to register. A show of hands showed 18 in favor of tagging.</p>
ACTION	Motion was made by Roger Greenwood and 2nd by Dan Tyrolt and was passed by unanimous vote that the chair of the Turkey and Upland Game Committee draft a letter to the Chair of the Wisconsin Conservation Congress. This committee is displeased by being excluded from the decision made by others in the Congress recommending shortening the grouse season. Science based research is not available to support the decision. We as a committee should have been a part of the discussion.

IV. ADJOURNMENT

MEETING ADJOURNED	Motion to adjourn by Roger Greenwood, 2nd by Dave Larson. Motion carried 1:13 pm
SUBMITTED BY	Bradley Hasheider
DATE	08/19/2018